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October 28, 2021

The Honorable Merrick Garland
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Garland,

I am writing to you regarding the ongoing scourge of spam calls. As you know, my proposed Spam Calls Task Force was created by the TRACED Act (Public Law 116-105) in January 2020 and is highlighted in a October 27, 2020 DOJ report. The report highlights the interagency coordination and cooperation under the Spam Calls Task Force that led to hundreds of millions of fewer robocalls per month. Working together to get the job done brought relief to my constituents and Americans across the country.

Unfortunately, the spammers are back, plaguing Floridians day and night. The Task Force has done a remarkable job of identifying bad actors, but there is still much more to do in terms of enforcement – these bad actors need to feel the full consequences of their crimes. In this vein, I ask that you marshal the full arsenal of the DOJ and the Spam Calls Task Force and go after these fraudsters to the fullest extent of the law. I ask that your agency prioritize the collection of fines and consider jail time, under Title 18 of the United States Code. We should all be doing everything in our power to bring these criminals to justice.

In the fight to protect Americans from abusive spam calls, I am hopeful that you share my commitment to stop at nothing, including collecting financial penalties already levied -- and sending fraudsters to jail. This is about keeping our families, friends, neighbors, and communities safe from those who are harassing and defrauding them, while preserving the phone call as a dependable source of communication. Floridians are counting on the DOJ and the Spam Calls Task Force to double down and stay one step ahead of the bad guys in the fight against spam calls.

Thank you again for all that you do and Godspeed.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN